BUS SERVICE—MATTANCHERI TO ERNAKULAM THROUGH WILLINGDON ISLAND

90. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether there is any idea of farming out or giving a monopoly for the running of public conveyances and buses from Mattancheri through the Willingdon Island to Ernakulam;

(*b*) whether any tenders have been called already by the Administrative Officer of the Willingdon Island for farming out the monopoly right of running buses through the Willingdon Island;

(*c*) will the Government be pleased to say under what jurisdiction this is done and the terms of farming out the monopoly right to buses;

(*d*) is the bus service, if any, that is to be introduced and farmed out, a through one between Mattancheri and Ernakulam via Willingdon Island or is it to be two separate services one from Mattancheri to Willingdon Island and another from Ernakulam to Willingdon Island with a break in the middle;

(*e*) is the Government aware that this will cause great inconvenience and trouble to the public at large;

(*f*) will the Government be pleased to state the reasons, if any, why a continuous service could not be arranged?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) to (*f*) The Harbour Authorities had originally an idea to give a monopoly for the running of bus service on the Willingdon Island route. The Administrative Officer accordingly called for tenders for the monopoly right. But the idea was subsequently dropped on the basis of the objections raised by the Cochin Government.

WILLINGDON ISLAND—LEVY OF MUNICIPAL TOLLS AT BRIDGES

91. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Will the Government be pleased to inform.—

(*a*) whether they are aware that tolls are being levied at both the Mattancheri and Ernakulam gates of the new bridges connecting Mattancheri and Ernakulam with the Willingdon Island;

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(*b*) will the Government be pleased to state the date of the notification, if any, whereby tolls were notified as being imposed at the two gates of the bridges;

(*c*) will the Government be pleased to inform when the Special Police posted at the bridge-gates were empowered to collect and issue receipts for these tolls?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) Yes; there are Municipal tolls at the entrance to the Bridges on the Ernakulam and Mattancheri sides;

(*b*) No notification is necessary for the establishment of a Municipal toll under the Municipal Act;

(*c*) The Special Police have not been empowered to collect tolls.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What is the special necessity of putting these tolls at the entrance of the bridges?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* They are Municipal tolls.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What I mean is this; cars coming from outside the Mattancheri Municipality must pass through the toll gates at the entrance to Cochin?

Mr. President: It has opened up another new entrance to the Municipality. That is a Municipal toll gate. *(Laughter).*

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What I am saying is, a car coming from Ernakulam, if it wants to get into Mattancheri will have to pay a toll at Mattancheri and the Mattancheri car going to Ernakulam will also have to pay toll. So a very heavy burden falls upon the car using people, because, in an area like this where the Cochin Municipality, Mattancheri Municipality and Ernakulam, are all lying contiguous over an area of about a few miles, 3 tolls have to be paid. This is a serious matter I want the Government to consider.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* The special difficulty pointed by the hon'ble member is a matter under consideration of the Government.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* There was a composite license thought of, I think.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* Yes.

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